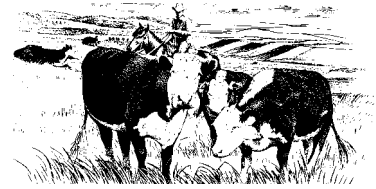


# California Livestock Review



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## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Cattle On Feed .....	1-2
Farm Prices --- Milk Production .....	2
Hog and Pig Inventory --- Livestock Slaughter .....	3

## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 8 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 10.70 million head on April 1, 2003. The inventory was 8 percent below April 1, 2002 and 7 percent below April 1, 2001. The inventory included 6.72 million steers and steer calves, down 7 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.92 million head, down 9 percent from 2002. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 2.04 million, 5 percent above 2002 and 11 percent above 2001. Net placements were 1.98 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 276 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 390 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 744 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 632 thousand. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.80 million, 1 percent below 2002 and 6 percent below 2001. Other disappearance totaled 62.0 thousand head during March, 10 percent below 2002 and 37 percent below 2001.

## CATTLE ON FEED IN CALIFORNIA

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 470 thousand head on April 1, 2003, the same as last month, but 3 percent below April 2002. During March, placements of 62.0 thousand head were 9 percent below the previous year. Marketings of 58.0 thousand head were 5 percent above March of 2002. Other disappearance totaled 4.00 thousand head.

## NUMBER OF CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED IN 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES

State	Number On Feed March 1 a/			Placed During March		Marketed During March	
	2002	2003 b/	2003/2002	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Head						
Arizona	310	279	90	32	31	27	29
California	475	470	99	68	62	55	58
Colorado	1,150	990	86	200	165	215	180
Idaho	315	280	89	70	58	59	57
Iowa	400	365	91	49	56	53	55
Kansas	2,420	2,240	93	435	510	420	410
Nebraska	2,300	2,190	95	310	320	300	310
New Mexico	109	112	103	19	16	14	22
Oklahoma	345	320	93	80	94	64	71
South Dakota	210	215	102	44	44	33	43
Texas	2,850	2,560	90	560	600	495	480
Washington	229	180	79	40	31	37	30
Other States	405	325	80	46	55	53	58
UNITED STATES	11,518	10,526	91	1,953	2,042	1,825	1,803
State	Other Disappearance During March c/		Number On Feed April 1 a/		2003/2002		
	2002	2003	2002	2003			
	1,000 Head					Percent	
Arizona	1	3	314	278	89		
California	3	4	485	470	97		
Colorado	15	5	1,120	970	87		
Idaho	1	1	325	280	86		
Iowa	1	1	395	365	92		
Kansas	15	20	2,420	2,320	96		
Nebraska	10	10	2,300	2,190	95		
New Mexico	1	1	113	105	93		
Oklahoma	1	3	360	340	94		
South Dakota	1	1	220	215	98		
Texas	15	10	2,900	2,670	92		
Washington	2	1	230	180	78		
Other States	3	2	395	320	81		
UNITED STATES	69	62	11,577	10,703	92		

a/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals being fed for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates, and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

b/ Data revised for Idaho and the United States.

c/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlot to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

## CALIFORNIA MILK PRODUCTION

California milk producers produced 3.09 billion pounds of milk in March 2003. This was 12 percent above February 2003 and 3 percent above March 2002.

Monthly milk per cow averaged 1,825 pounds, 190 pounds more than February 2003, but 5 pounds less than a year ago.

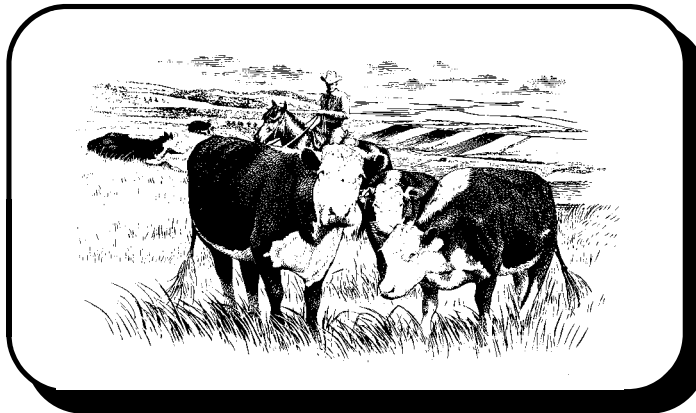
### MILK PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

Month	CALIFORNIA 1/						Total Milk Receipts 2/		UNITED STATES 1/ 3/					
	Milk Cows		Milk Per Cow		Milk Production				Milk Cows		Milk Per Cow		Milk Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds				1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds	
Jan.	1624	1,681	1,745	1,770	2,834	2,975	2,832	2,973	7,749	7,807	1,591	1,607	12,327	12,548
Feb.	1626	1,686	1,620	1,635	2,634	2,757	2,630	2,753	7,744	7,810	1,472	1,484	11,401	11,588
Mar.	1631	1,691	1,830	1,825	2,985	3,086	2,982	---	7,745	7,812	1,654	1,664	12,810	12,996
Apr.	1635		1,795		2,935		2,933		7,758		1621		12575	
May	1639		1,875		3,073		3,070		7,769		1678		13039	
June	1645		1,800		2,961		2,960		7,782		1587		12348	
July	1647		1,810		2,981		2,977		7,781		1578		12281	
Aug.	1651		1,810		2,988		2,985		7,785		1570		12223	
Sept.	1658		1,700		2,819		2,817		7,781		1497		11648	
Oct.	1664		1,760		2,929		2,924		7,789		1539		11991	
Nov.	1669		1,685		2,812		2,808		7,792		1496		11657	
Dec.	1676		1,750		2,933		2,931		7,801		1575		12290	

1/ Revised 2002 data.

2/ Milk receipts are from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Dairy Marketing and Milk Pooling branches. Excludes on-farm usage.

3/ Twenty-state total.



### AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 2002	February 2003	March 15, 2003	March 2002	February 2003	March 15, 2003
		Dollars					
All Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	123.00	101.00	99.00	92.30	91.80	92.80
Alfalfa, Baled 2/	Tons	126.00	102.00	99.00	99.60	96.40	96.20
Hogs 2/ 3/	Cwt.	---	---	---	36.00	34.30	35.00
Cows 2/	Cwt.	40.50	36.50	38.50	41.50	38.90	39.80
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	73.00	78.50	75.50	74.10	78.10	76.20
Calves 2/	Cwt.	93.50	91.00	92.50	105.00	97.30	96.40
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	31.00	37.50	---	31.80	43.60	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	63.00	86.00	---	66.70	92.40	---
Milk Cows 4/	Head	---	---	---	---	---	---
All Milk Whsle. 2/	Cwt.	11.50	10.00	9.80	12.70	11.40	11.00

1/ The estimated prices in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers and are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Previous month revised to monthly average.

3/ Price includes barrows, gilts, and sows.

4/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published January, April, July, and October.

## U.S. HOG INVENTORY DOWN 2 PERCENT

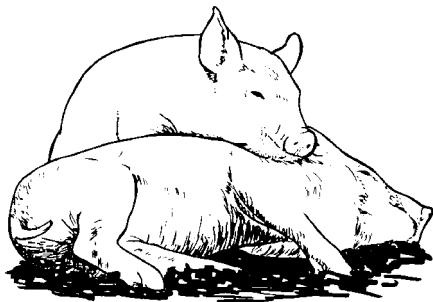
U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs was 58.1 million head on March 1, 2003. This was 2 percent below both March 1 and December 1 of 2002.

Breeding inventory, at 5.96 million head, was down 4 percent from March 1, 2002 and down 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 52.2 million head, was 2 percent below last year and 3 percent below last quarter.

The December 2002-February 2003 U.S. pig crop, with 24.4 million head, was 2 percent less than 2002, but 2 percent more than 2001. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.77 million head, 2 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average number of pigs saved per litter was 8.81 for the December 2002-February 2003 period, compared to 8.74 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5.00 thousand hogs and pigs.

U.S. HOG AND PIG INVENTORY, MARCH 1, 2001-03

Item	2001	2002	2003	<u>2003</u> <u>2001</u>	<u>2003</u> <u>2002</u>
	1,000 Head			Percent	
<b>March 1 Inventory</b>					
All Hogs and Pigs	57,524	59,248	58,107	101	98
Kept for Breeding	6,232	6,236	5,956	96	96
Market	51,292	53,011	52,151	102	98
<b>Market Hogs and Pigs</b>					
<b>By Weight Groups</b>					
Under 60 Pounds	18,737	19,487	19,110	102	98
60-119 Pounds	12,417	12,975	12,655	102	98
120-179 Pounds	10,805	11,172	10,894	101	98
180 Pounds and Over	9,334	9,377	9,492	102	101



## CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California's production of red meat during March 2003 totaled 115.1 million pounds (dressed weight), 8 percent above last month and 11 percent above March 2002. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In March 2003, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,280 pounds; calves 145 pounds; and hogs 240 pounds.

## U.S. COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.70 billion pounds in March, up 1 percent from the 3.68 billion pounds produced in March 2002.

March 2002 and 2003 both contained 21 weekdays and five Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.05 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.77 million head, up 1 percent from March 2002. The average live weight was 1,234 pounds, down 7 pounds from March a year ago.

Veal production totaled 16.5 million pounds, 10 percent above March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 85.1 thousand head, up 10 percent from March 2002. The average live weight was 323 pounds, down 1 pound from March a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.62 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.15 million head, 2 percent above March 2002. The average live weight was 268 pounds, up 1 pound from March a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.2 million pounds, was down 18 percent from March 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 264 thousand head, 19 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, unchanged from March a year ago.

January - March red meat production was 11.27 billion pounds, virtually unchanged from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was up 8 percent, pork was up 2 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 15 percent.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER,  
MARCH 2002-03, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES 1/

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
<b>CATTLE</b>						
California	97.2	109.6	127,062	140,319	1,308	1,280
U.S.	2,737.7	2,770.2	3,397,480	3,417,508	1,241	1,234
<b>CALVES</b>						
California	8.6	11.2	1,399	1,631	163	145
U.S.	77.4	85.1	25,062	27,464	324	323
<b>SHEEP &amp; LAMBS</b>						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S.	324.3	264.1	44,622	36,411	138	138
<b>HOGS</b>						
California	185.7	193.9	42,804	46,592	231	240
U.S.	7,986.5	8,152.1	2,132,885	2,181,874	267	268
<b>RED MEAT</b>	March 2002	February 2003 <u>b/</u>	March 2003	<u>Mar. 03</u> <u>Mar. 02</u>	<u>Mar. 03</u> <u>Feb. 03</u>	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	103.9	106.5	115.1	111	108	
U.S.	3,677.7	3,496.5	3,701.5	101	106	

a/ Farm slaughter excluded.

b/ Revised.